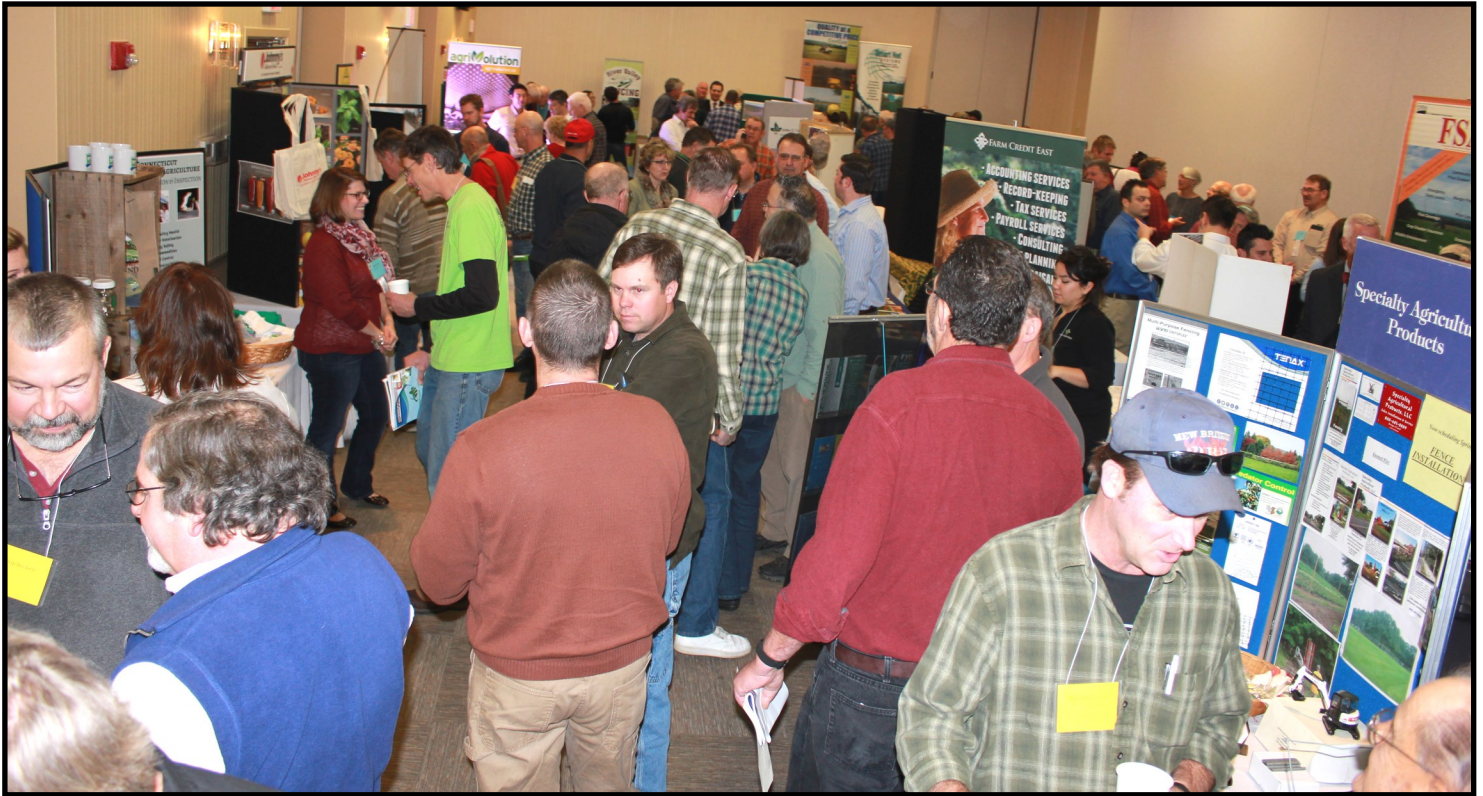


Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
January 12, 2016



ANNUAL VEGETABLE AND SMALL FRUIT GROWERS' CONFERENCE DRAWS HUNDREDS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Nearly 300 farmers packed a South Windsor conference center Monday for a day of instruction and discussion at the annual Connecticut Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference and trade show.

Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said the crowd that filled Maneely's Conference Center is indicative of the quality of the conference and the robust growth in agriculture Connecticut has seen in recent years.

"I've been around farming and agriculture my whole life," Reviczky said. "And to see the consumer demand for locally-grown food and other agricultural products is amazing to me. I'm glad that I have the opportunity to serve you as the Commissioner of Agriculture at this special time."

Topics at the conference included irrigation; pest and disease management; complying with farm labor laws; how to grow for a CSA, and the effects of environmental extremes on crop physiology.

The trade show attracted 25 agricultural service agencies and vendors. In his remarks, Commissioner Reviczky briefly discussed some of the department's programs that assist

farmers, including:

Farm Transition Grants – Provides grants to up to \$49,999 which must be matched by at least 50 percent by the farmer. Funded projects have included farm buildings and equipment, commercial kitchens and other value-added processing equipment, netting, wildlife barriers, energy efficiencies and a host of other improvements and innovations.

Deadline for this year's grant program is April 7, and grantees have one year to complete the funded project.

Farmland Preservation Program – Preserves critical farmland through owners conveying the farm's development rights to the state, ensuring the property remains available for agricultural use in perpetuity.

Created as one of the first-in-the-nation in 1978, the program has preserved nearly 320 farms and 42,000 acres.

"It is a very active and very successful program," Reviczky said. "We still have significant funding available to work with qualified farms so if you have a farm or your family has a farm or your neighbor has a farm that might

(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	70.00	76.00
boners 80-85% lean	68.00	75.50
lean 88-90% lean	63.00	71.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	126.00	131.00
Choice 2-3	121.00	125.50
Sel 1-3	115.00	120.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	115.00	121.00
Ch 2-3	107.50	113.50
Sel 2-3	96.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	122.00	126.00
Ch 2-3	118.00	120.50
Sel 1-3	113.00	118.00
CALVES Graded bull		
No 1 90-128 lbs	160.00	190.00
No 2 88-100 lbs	168.00	182.00
No 2 80-86 lbs	201.00	201.00
No 3 90-130 lbs	140.00	179.00
Utility 100-110 lbs	135.00	135.00
FRESH COWS		
Supreme	2200.00	2600.00
Approved	1850.00	2200.00
Medium	1350.00	1850.00
Common	900.00	1350.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
70-80 lbs	270.00	285.00
80-90 lbs	250.00	252.00
90-110 lbs	207.00	225.00
110-130 lbs	192.00	212.00
130-150 lbs	165.00	185.00
150-200 lbs	170.00	182.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	125.00	135.00
120-160 lbs	115.00	137.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	127.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	100.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	87.00	117.00
200-300 lbs	85.00	110.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-50 lbs	230.00	235.00
50-60 lbs	245.00	270.00
80-100 lbs	280.00	310.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	235.00	255.00
130-180 lbs	260.00	285.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
80-100 lbs	265.00	275.00
100-150 lbs	330.00	370.00
150-250 lbs	365.00	445.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA., HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	250-350 lbs	43.00	49.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	54.00
48-52	250-300 lbs	36.00	42.00
	300-350 lbs	34.00	41.00
Sows 1-3	400-500 lbs	18.00	21.00
	500-600 lbs	18.00	22.50
Boars	400-800 lbs	3.00	6.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LBS	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLES, CORTLAND, #1, 100	19.00	19.00
APPLES, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80, 88	68.00	68.00
APPLES, EMPIRE, 120/140, #1, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 80, 88	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 120, 140	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 120	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACS, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	15.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, RED, ORGANIC, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	38.00	38.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	33.00	33.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	19.00	23.00
POTATO, FINGERLING, 20 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDRED, 50 LBS	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDWHT, 1, CHEF, 50#	10.00	10.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	14.00	14.00
PUMPKINS, PIE, 1-1/9	11.00	15.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36" BIN	190.00	230.00
SPINACH, FLAT, CTN, 24	15.00	17.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9	12.00	15.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9	10.00	12.00
TOMS, GHSE, CHERRY, 8-10 OZ	14.00	17.00
TOMS, GHSE, CHERRY, VINE5LB	12.00	14.00
TOMS, GHSE, ONVINE, MD, 11LB	14.50	15.00
TOMS, GHSE, ONVINE, SM, 11LB	8.00	8.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25LB	16.00	20.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00
TURNIPS, PURPLE TOPS, 25LBS	8.00	10.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLE, GALA, XFCY, WA, 100	45.00	48.00
APPLE, GALA, XFCY, ORG, WA, 88	74.00	74.00
APPLE, MAC XFCY, NY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, EMPIRE, XFCY, NY, 80	25.00	26.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFY, NY, 80	26.00	26.00
CABBAGE, GRN, NY, 50 LBS	9.00	10.00
CUKES, GHSE, CAN, 20 LBS	32.00	34.00
ENDIVE, FL, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
GARLIC, COLOSSAL, CA, 30 LBS	60.00	65.00
GINGER ROOT, 10 LBS	18.00	20.00
KALE, GA, CRATES, 12 BNCH	12.00	13.00
LETT, BOSTN, CAN, HYDR, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
MACHE, GHSE, PA, 3 LBS	12.00	12.00
KOHLRABI, TX, CRT, 12 BNCHS	18.00	20.00
MESCULIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.00	6.50
MUSHROOM, ENOKI, PA, 12-3.5OZ	18.00	19.00
MUSHROOM, OYSTER, PA, 3 LBS	13.00	13.25
MUSHRM, SHITAKE, PA, LG, 3LB	14.00	15.00
MUSTARD GREENS, GA, 12	14.00	14.00
ONIONS, BOILERS, ID, 25 LBS	17.00	18.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 20-2LB	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, RED, 10 LBS	8.00	9.00
SWISSCHARD, GREEN, CA, 12	16.00	18.00
SUNFLOWER, LGE, PA, 5 FLWRS	6.50	7.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, EACH	.85	1.00
SUNFLOWER, MINI, PA, 10 STEMS	7.50	7.50

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, January 11, 2016

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	70.00	110.00
76-90 lbs.	145.00	147.50
91-105 lbs.	150.00	152.50
106 lbs. & up	155.00	157.50
Farm Calves	160.00	162.50
Starter Calves	52.00	55.00
Veal Calves	50.00	135.00
Open Heifers	80.00	100.00
Beef Heifers	89.00	104.00
Feeder Steers	65.00	140.00
Beef Steers	85.00	109.00
Stock Bulls	105.00	125.00
Beef Bulls	85.00	91.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	40.00	170.00
Lambs	50.00	190.00
Goats each	75.00	310.00
Kid Goats	85.00	90.00
Canners	up to	70.00
Cutters	71.00	74.00
Utility Grade Cows	75.00	80.00
Rabbits each	8.00	25.00
Chickens each	6.00	15.00
Ducks each	10.00	21.00

*Auction will be held as usual on
Monday, January 18*

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.98	1.14
LARGE	.94	1.08
MEDIUM	.66	.79

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.60	1.70
LARGE	1.53	1.63
MEDIUM	1.02	1.12
SMALL	.93	1.03

NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS

All prices per cwt.

US 1-2		
20-30 lbs	155.00	170.00
40-50 lbs	120.00	150.00
50-60 lbs	95.00	110.00
US 2-3		
20-40 lbs	155.00	175.00
50-60 lbs	115.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	95.00	95.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

9-R. CT Boot and Shoe offers top quality American Made work boots and shoes. Redwing, Thorogood, and Carolina brands. Free shipping in Connecticut. CT Boot, 33 River Street, Thomaston. Mention this ad to save \$20.00. 860-283-2385.

WANTED

7-R. Maple Lane Farms is a hydroponic grower of produce for the retail and food service markets. Due to increased demand from our customers, we are seeking greenhouse owners to grow our products on a contract basis. If interested, call 860-227-8786.

10-R. Orange Community Farmers' Market: Vendors Wanted – Bee Products; Cheese Monger; Fruits; Fish & Shellfish; plus, Artisanal Food Products. Market begins June 2016. If interested, please call Paul Grimmer – 203-891-1045.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

8-R. FREE Off grade potatoes for animal feed in East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE OFFERING GRANT-WRITING SEMINARS

Connecticut Department of Agriculture staff are available to present at farmer meetings and conferences on grant opportunities and ways to improve grant-writing skills.

Presentations will be customized to the event and can range from 45 minutes to up to two hours in length. All presentations will include:

- Grant opportunities through the agency
- How to improve grant-writing skills
- What makes a successful application
- Insight into project evaluation

Presentations longer than an hour may also include:

- Farmer success stories
- Active brainstorming; putting pen to paper

Those interested may contact Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860-713-2559.

GROWERS' CONFERENCE DRAWS HUNDREDS

(Continued from Page 1)

qualify it doesn't cost anything to apply."

Farmland Restoration Grants – created in 2011 by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, the program provides matching grants of up to \$20,000 to bring fallow land back into production by eradicating invasive plants, clearing hedgerows and removing stumps and rocks.

Reviczky also said department staff is available to help affected farmers comply with rules of the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act.

"We try to educate, we try to provide technical assistance and we try to guide you into compliance," Reviczky said.

Farmer Bruce Gresczyk, Jr. of New Hartford gave a presentation on how to grow for and manage a CSA, or community-supported agriculture program in which customers pay up-front for a weekly supply of produce and other items from the grower over an agreed-upon period of time.

Connecticut has seen a strong increase in CSA's in recent years, and there are now about 90 across the state, typically charging between \$30 and \$50 per week.

Gresczyk's 5-year-old CSA now numbers about 500 customers, making it one of the largest in the state. But he stressed that growers can shape their CSA to fit their budget, schedule and size of their operation.

"A CSA can really be what you want it to be," he said. "There are no rules and the sky is the limit."

Gresczyk said he sold at about 20 farmers' markets before starting his CSA, but has greatly reduced that number as his CSA has grown.

"I think it's cheaper to prepare for a CSA than a traditional farmers' market," he said. "And the beauty for us is that we don't have to travel."

His CSA runs for 20 weeks, and most customers pick up their boxes at his farm. He also makes "off-site drops" of produce for CSA customers to pick up at farmers' markets.

Last season, he offered 50 unique items for customers to choose from. But he stressed that growers can offer a more limited selection if they prefer, and run their CSA for only a few weeks or months.

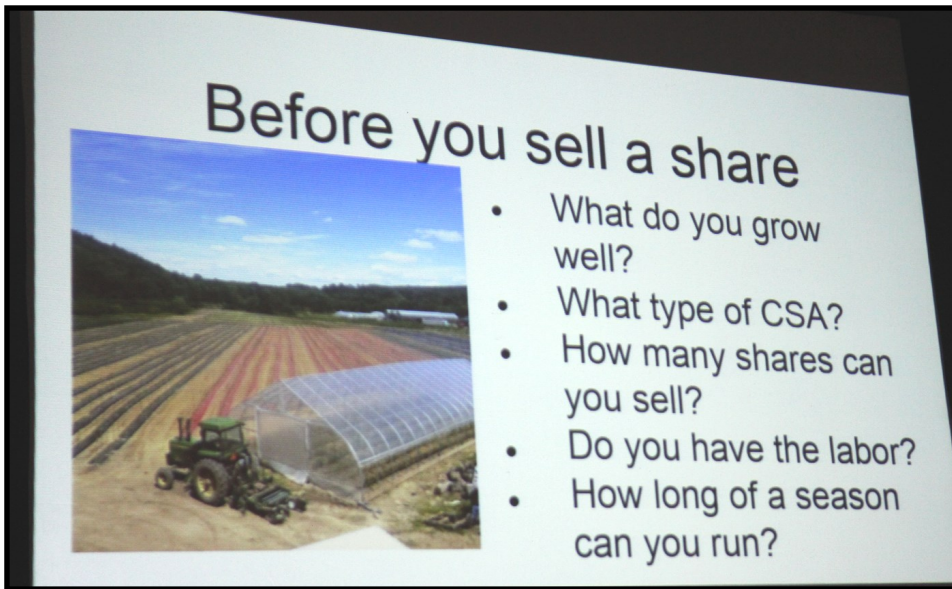
A key element to success is having good communication with customers as to what items they can expect throughout the season, as well as letting them know when some anticipated item is not available.

"What people like to see is consistency," he said. "So you need to have a plan if something goes wrong. If you have (crop) failures, you can always fill the gaps with something else."

Planning is also key to figuring out how large a CSA the grower can manage, considering labor costs and the farmer's experience with growing produce in volume.

For example, he has a worker who seeds 2,000 to 3,000 heads of lettuce a week in season.

"You need to have systems in place," Gresczyk said. "If you're a smaller farm and just getting started I wouldn't recommend getting into a CSA right away."



Above: One of the slides that New Hartford farmer Bruce Gresczyk, Jr. (right) used in his presentation on growing for a CSA at Monday's annual Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Association Conference.

Below: Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky delivers remarks about the growth of Connecticut agriculture and the department's efforts to assist farmers.



Page 1: The conference's trade show drew 25 service agencies and vendors.



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